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# Industrial Disputes, Australia

The number of disputes (strikes or lockouts), employees involved and working days lost; cause of dispute; duration; and the reason work resumed

Reference period June 2022

Released 8/09/2022

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## Key statistics

In the June quarter 2022:

- 52 disputes occurred.
- 73,700 employees were involved and 128,100 working days lost.
- disputes occurred in 8 industries and in 7 states and territories.

During the year ended June 2022, there were 154 disputes and a total of 234,600 working days lost.

	Quarter	Year ended		
	March Quarter 2022	June Quarter 2022	June Quarter 2021	June Quarter 2022
Number of disputes (no.)				
New	22	45	98	143
Total	30	52	100	154
Employees involved ('000)				
New	10.1	71.2	14.7	143.7
Total	11.4	73.7	14.8	145.3
Working days lost ('000)				
	19.6	128.1	57.7	234.6

## Overview

In the June quarter 2022, there were:

- 52 disputes, 22 more than from the previous quarter.
- 73,700 employees involved, an increase from 11,400 in the previous quarter.
- 128,100 working days lost, an increase from 19,600 in the previous quarter.

Year ended estimates:

- 154 disputes occurred, 54 more than in the previous year.
- 234,600 working days were lost, 176,900 more than the previous year.

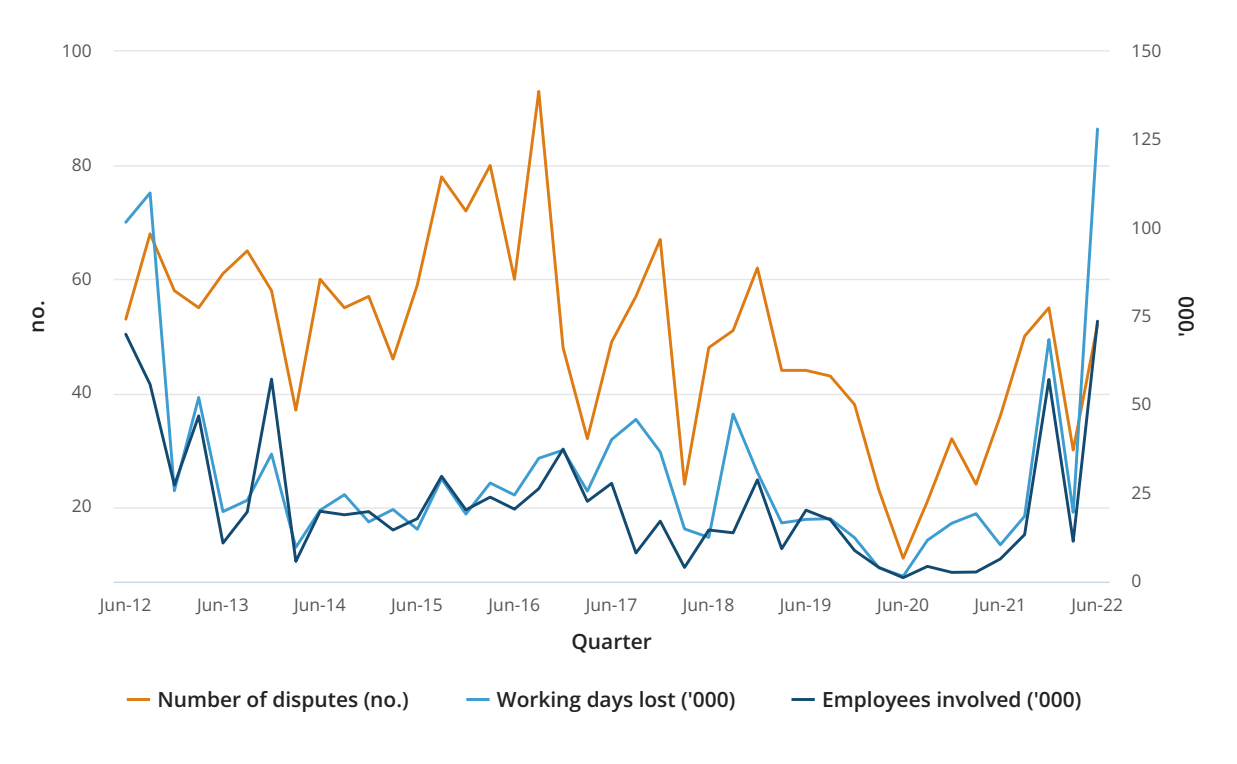
## Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter

	Number of disputes		Employees involved		Working days lost
	New (no.)	Total (no.)	New ('000)	Total ('000)	('000)
June Quarter 2020	8	11	0.9	1.1	1.5
September Quarter 2020	19	21	4.2	4.3	11.7
December Quarter 2020	27	32	2.2	2.6	16.5
March Quarter 2021	22	24	2.3	2.7	19.2
June Quarter 2021	30	36	6.0	6.4	10.4
September Quarter 2021	39	50	11.7	13.3	18.5
December Quarter 2021	37	55	50.6	57.2	68.5
March Quarter 2022	22	30	10.1	11.4	19.6
June Quarter 2022	45	52	71.2	73.7	128.1

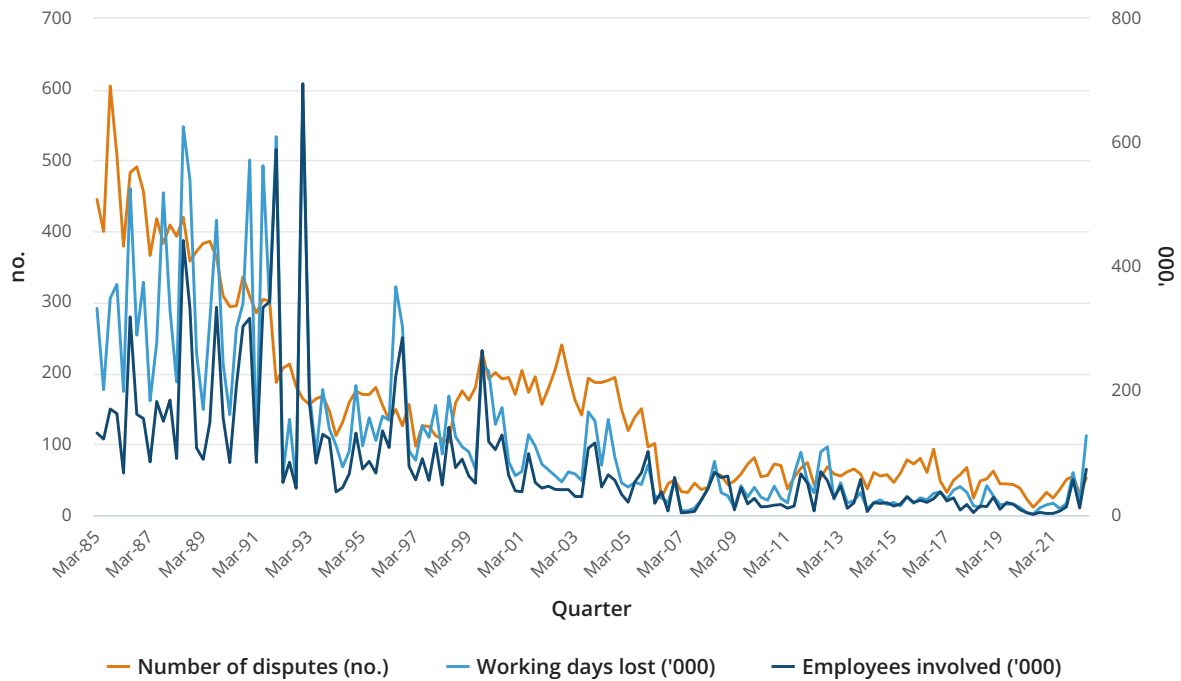
## Long-term trends

The level of industrial disputation over recent years is considerably lower than in the 1980's and prior decades.

# Industrial disputes in the last 10 years, Australia



## Industrial disputes historical series, Australia



## Industry

In the June quarter, disputes occurred in eight industries. More than four in five (91%) working days lost were in the Education and training; Health care and social assistance industry.

## Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, industry

	March Quarter 2022		June Quarter 2022	
	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)
Mining				
Coal mining	np	np	np	np
Other mining	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.5
Manufacturing				
Metal product etc (a)	np	np	np	np
Other manufacturing	1.8	3.8	0.7	1.4
Construction	1.6	1.7	0.6	0.6
Transport, postal & warehousing	0.8	1.4	2.6	4.3
Education & training; Health care & social assistance	8.2	2.8	116.6	39.2
Other industries (a)	6.6	1.0	6.9	1.0
<b>All industries</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>10.4</b>

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) see Glossary - [Industry \(https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/industrial-disputes-australia-methodology/jun-2022#glossary\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/industrial-disputes-australia-methodology/jun-2022#glossary) - for details of industries included

## States and territories

Disputes occurred in seven states and territories in the June quarter, with more than four in five (94%) working days lost occurring in New South Wales.

## Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, states and territories

	March Quarter 2022		June Quarter 2022	
	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)
New South Wales	11.7	3.1	120.6	31.2
Victoria	np	np	2.9	0.9
Queensland	2.9	1.2	0.6	0.2
South Australia	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.3
Western Australia	np	np	1.3	0.9
Tasmania	-	-	-	-
Northern Territory	-	-	0.1	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	-	-	0.7	3.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>10.4</b>

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## Cause of dispute

Most industrial disputes are Enterprise Bargaining (EB) related. Over the past 10 years, disputes over employment conditions have generally been the most prevalent.

EB related issues were the cause of 74% of disputes (17 of 23) which ended in the March quarter 2022.

## Cause of disputes which ended during the quarter

	December Quarter 2021			March Quarter 2022		
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Enterprise Bargaining related						
Remuneration	11	np	np	6	2.2	2.9
Employment conditions	31	8.5	27.3	11	0.9	2.4
Other	2	0.1	0.1	-	-	-
Non-Enterprise Bargaining related						
Remuneration	-	-	-	1	np	np
Employment conditions	1	np	np	1	-	-
Health and safety	1	1.0	1.0	3	4.2	3.1
Job security	-	-	-	-	-	-
Managerial policy	1	44	44.1	1	np	np
Union issues	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>

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## Working days lost

Working days lost is a measure of the length of a dispute, relative to the number of employees involved.

Of the 23 disputes which ended in the March quarter, 10 lasted for over 2 and less than 5 days. These disputes had:

- 1,100 employees involved; and
- 3,600 working days lost.

## Working days lost for disputes which ended during the quarter

	December Quarter 2021			March Quarter 2022		
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Up to and including 1 day	12	1.9	1.7	9	6.7	4.2
Over 1 day and up to including 2 days	12	47.4	48.5	2	np	np
Over 2 and less than 5 days	9	4.4	13.0	10	1.1	3.6
5 and less than 10 days	2	0.1	0.6	1	np	np
10 days and over	12	0.7	12.4	1	np	np
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>

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## Reason work resumed

The reason work resumed relates to the last day of action taken. Resumption of work can occur without resolution to the issues that triggered the dispute.

There was a pre-determined return to work for 65% of disputes (15 of 23) which ended in the March quarter 2022.



## Reason work resumed for disputes which ended during the quarter

	December Quarter 2021			March Quarter 2022		
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Negotiation without intervention of a third party	8	0.9	8.5	-	-	-
State legislation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal legislation	1	np	np	2	-	-
Pre-determined return to work	34	52.1	66.2	15	2.8	4.6
Resumption without negotiation	1	1.0	1.0	4	1.9	1.5
Mediation	3	np	np	2	3.3	2.6
Other reasons	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>

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## Data downloads

### Time Series Spreadsheets

⬇ Download all (479.35 KB)

#### Table 1: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period

⬇ [Download XLSX](#)  
[58.75 KB]

#### Table 2a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, industry

⬇ [Download XLSX](#)  
[53.4 KB]

#### Table 2b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, industry

⬇ [Download XLSX](#)  
[53.17 KB]

#### Table 3a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, states and territories

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[63.34 KB]

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Table 3b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, states and territories

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[61.84 KB]

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Table 4a: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, cause of dispute

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[91.48 KB]

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Table 4b: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, working days lost per employee involved

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[63.13 KB]

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Table 4c: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, reason work resumed

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[77.94 KB]

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## Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6321.0.55.001.

## Methodology

[Industrial Disputes, Australia methodology, June 2022](#)